



ЛИТЕРАТУРНАЯ ГАЗЕТА

ОРГАН ПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВА
СОЮЗА ПИСАТЕЛЕЙ СССР



РЕДАКЦИЯ

Mr. William H. Webster
Director of the Central
Intelligence Agency
Langley, Virginia, USA

September, 14, 1989

Dear Mr. Webster:

The editorial board of the Literaturnaya Gazeta confirm hereby the request that had already been made to your subordinates by Mr. Edgar Cheporov, who represents our weekly in the USA.

We have the honour and courage of asking you to give an exclusive interview for our weekly. To the best of our knowledge, in case of your positive answer, it will be the first interview ever given by the head of the CIA to the Soviet media.

We understand that not so long ago such a request would be regarded as very strange and unrealistic. But the times have changed, the international climate and the Soviet-American relations are improving month by month. So we find it proper to break down or at least to weaken one of the last surviving 'cold war' cliches, which is viewing the CIA as an organization immanently hostile towards our country and people. We feel certain that nowadays there are more and better things to say.

On the other hand, you are most probably informed that the KGB Chairman, Victor Kryuchkov, recently broke the traditional silence and met the press, both at a conference during the latest Supreme Soviet session and in his office. The Chairman mentioned among other topics a possibility of future cooperation between the KGB and intelligence - counterintelligence bodies of the West in defending detente, fighting terrorism and narcotics and in other fields of utter international importance. We would appreciate it very much if you could render us your opinion on the subject. And of course you could use the opportunity to address the Soviet readers raising any problems of your own choice.

Finally, we realize that the name of our weekly is not unknown in the West. Our current circulation is over 6.5 mln. copies, and about 100,000 copies go to our foreign subscribers in 134 countries. At the moment we are about to start a new project - 'The Literaturnaya Gazeta - International', a joint Soviet-American venture to be printed and distributed in the USA and other English speaking countries. So your interview, if granted, will reach a very wide audience.

In case of your positive answer, which we eagerly hope for, Mr. Cheporov is prepared to meet you immediately.

Hoping for your cooperation,

Yours sincerely,

Yuri ISYUROV
First Deputy Editor-in-Chief